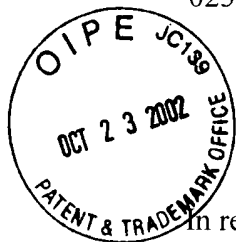


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02500.000006

PATENT APPLICATION



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

HIROYUKI MORIMOTO, et al.

Application No.: 09/647,777

Filed: December 29, 2000

For: TABLET PRODUCTION  
METHOD AND TABLET

Examiner: Susan C. Tran

Group Art Unit: 1615

October 22, 2002

Re  
10-16-03  
RECEIVED  
OCT 28 2002  
TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to action on the merits, please amend the above-identified application, as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-28, and add the following new claims 29-39.

29. (New) A method of producing a pharmaceutical tablet, comprising the steps

of:

selecting a granular active substance and a pharmaceutically acceptable

diluent, said granular active substance bearing a coating film;

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